2975.0012 PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Masanori OHTSUKA	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned	)	
	:	
Filed: Concurrently Herewith	)	
	:	
For: PHOTOMETRIC DEVICE AND CAMERA	)	
	:	December 10, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Box New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 17, 21-23, 25, 27, 31-33, 35, 37 and 38 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 17, 21-23, 25, 27, 31-33, 35, 37 and 38 showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

5. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

6. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to 3, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

9. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 4, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined are when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

14. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to 12, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from specific photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

17. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 14, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

21. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, wherein the photometric result in said predetermined area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the subarea including said object of said plurality of subareas.

22. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

23. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in a peripheral area around said predetermined area.

25. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in said overall area.

27. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 22, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

31. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein said reference value is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the subarea including said object of said plurality of subareas.

32. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

33. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in the peripheral area around said predetermined area.

35. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29, wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in said overall area.

37. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 32, wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

38. (Amended) A camera comprising said photometric device according to any of claims 1 to 3, 10 to 12, 18, 19, 28 and 29, wherein operations for taking pictures are controlled on the basis of at least one of the photometric result in said predetermined area and the backlight determination result.

REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is being filed together with the original applications papers in the subject application.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 14, 17, 21-23, 25, 27, 31-33, 35, 37 and 38 have been amended to improve the form (dependency) of the claims under U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

5. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to [4] 3, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

6. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of Claims 1 to [4] 3, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion

means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

9. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 4, [6, or 8,] wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined are when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

14. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 10 to [13] 12, comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion

means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area,

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas, and

a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from specific photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means other than the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said peripheral area.

17. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 14 [or 16], wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

21. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19 [to 20], wherein the photometric result in said predetermined area is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the subarea including said object of said plurality of subareas.

22. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19 [to 21], comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

23. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19 [to 22], wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in a peripheral area around said predetermined area.

25. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 18 and 19 [to 22], wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and a photometric result in said overall area.

27. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 22, [24, or 26,] wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

31. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29 [to 30], wherein said reference value is corrected on the basis of a proportion of the subarea including said object of said plurality of subareas.

32. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29 [to 31], comprising a plurality of photoelectric conversion means arranged on the overall area where photometry can be performed,

wherein a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area of said plurality of photoelectric conversion means or a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area, and

values corresponding to the outputs from the respective photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area are used as the photometric results in said subareas.

33. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29 [to 32], wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in the peripheral area around said predetermined area.

35. (Amended) The photometric device according to any of claims 28 and 29 [to 32], wherein backlight is determined when a difference greater than a predetermined reference value exists between the photometric result in said predetermined area and the photometric result in said overall area.

37. (Amended) The photometric device according to claim 32, [34, or 36,] wherein a value corresponding to a sum of outputs from photoelectric conversion means included

in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when at least one of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means is less than a predetermined value, and a value corresponding to an output indicating the lowest luminance of the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means included in said predetermined area is used as the photometric result in said predetermined area when all the outputs from the photoelectric conversion means are greater than the predetermined value.

38. (Amended) A camera comprising said photometric device according to any of claims 1 to [37] 3, 10 to 12, 18, 19, 28 and 29, wherein operations for taking pictures are controlled on the basis of at least one of the photometric result in said predetermined area and the backlight determination result.